

cannot then be affected by peculiarities that are acquired by the latter—a contention which it must be admitted lacks adequate proof. Each school can adduce instances to show that acquired characters have, and have not, been inherited.

In this uncertainty we may remember that Life does not limit its activities by any consideration for uniformity of procedure, and that, while in some cases it may evolve changes of form spontaneously, in others it may utilize the experience of individuals. Amongst those who most positively deny that environment produces racial changes by its action upon individuals are some who will admit that its influences may predispose organisms to vary in directions that are favoured by their circumstances. And no one will dispute that environment affects very potently the course of racial development by eliminating any change that would put an organism out of accord with its surroundings.

There is, however, much to justify us in going beyond this narrow conclusion and in ascribing to environment an active part in originating peculiarities that become hereditary. Size, for instance, is a hereditary peculiarity; the dimensions attained by either men or the lower animals generally correspond with those of their progenitors. But the size of their progenitors appears in many cases undoubtedly to have been determined by their environment. The grey wolf and

the common fox of North America grow considerably larger in the north than in the south. the difference in size amounting to as much as a fifth. Deer of the same species also increase in size very materially towards the north. We may notice a similar tendency in the peoples of Europe. Life at a high elevation appears. on the other hand, to lower the stature of men and